

Guo, Sofia Montelibano, Polina Novikova, Makenzie Sing, Lillian Spencer, Melaina Thompson, Margaret Tracht, Yutaka Tomokio, Annika Vaughan, Colleen Vine, and Nathan Weaver; and from South Fayette High School, Zoe McCoy.

I would like to thank these impressive young artists for allowing us to share and celebrate their talents, imagination, and creativity. The efforts of these students in expressing themselves in a powerful and positive manner are no less than spectacular.

I hope that all of these individuals continue to utilize their artistic talents, and I wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING WARD TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 4, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ward Transport & Logistics for its longstanding dedication to our central Pennsylvania community as it celebrates 90 years of service. For decades, this nationally recognized trucking company has been instrumental in supplying and sustaining our local economy.

Since W. W. Ward founded the company in 1931, Ward Transport & Logistics has grown substantially and now operates 20 locations across the northeastern United States. This success is testament to the hard work and dedication of the Ward family. Ninety years later, Ward Transport & Logistics is now led by the fourth generation of the Ward family and it employs more than 1,400 workers in Pennsylvania and beyond.

As the company has expanded, its community outreach also has grown. Ward Hearts & Hands is a volunteer program overseen by employees with a heart for service. Their work to support critical community projects includes setting up charity events, serving meals and partnering with local food banks, delivering supplies to elderly members of the Blair County community, and fostering a children's mentoring program to grow the next generation of talent in our community.

Throughout their work to provide essential services, Ward Transport & Logistics has gone above and beyond in support of the Blair County community. As the Ward family and their entire team celebrate 90 years of service, I congratulate Ward Transport & Logistics on this outstanding legacy and wish them continued success.

CONGRATULATING INDIANA SECRETARY OF STATE CONNIE LAWSON ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 4, 2021

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate former Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson on her recent retirement and to thank her for many years of dedicated service to Hoosiers.

Throughout her years of public service, Connie has dedicated herself to moving Indiana forward. She was elected to the Indiana State Senate in 1996, and, in 2006, she became the first woman to serve as Senate Majority Floor Leader. In 2012, she was appointed to serve as Indiana's 61st Secretary of State. In these roles, she worked tirelessly to strengthen our communities and advance opportunities for future generations. Connie truly made our state a better place for Hoosiers to live, work, and thrive.

I am grateful to have worked with Connie on behalf of our state's businesses, workers, families, and voters. Her strong conservative values and Hoosier common sense have helped bring Indiana's businesses into the 21st century and ensured our elections remained free, fair, and secure. Her unmatched leadership, tenacity, and integrity, both in the Indiana Senate and as Secretary of State, have helped secure Indiana's status as an economic powerhouse. With a AAA credit rating, fiscally responsible budget, and low unemployment rate, our state is among the best places in the country to start and grow a business.

Governor Eric Holcomb has dubbed Connie "Indiana's own Iron Lady," and I couldn't agree more. She is a true patriot with a servant's heart, and her passion for helping her fellow Hoosiers has always been clear. I have no doubt her legacy will last far into the future.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Indiana's 61st Secretary of State Connie Lawson for her lifelong commitment to serving our communities. On behalf of 2nd District Hoosiers, I wish her the best as she embarks on this next chapter in life.

COMMEMORATING THE 77TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY AND REMEMBERING THE MEMBERS OF THE GREATEST GENERATION WHO SAVED FREEDOM IN THE WORLD

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 4, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, tomorrow, June 6, marks the 77th anniversary of D-Day, the Allied Forces' audacious amphibious landing at Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944.

This joint undertaking to liberate the continent of Europe from the clutches of an evil aggressor enemy was the first and most emphatic demonstration of the invincible strength of democratic nations when acting collectively.

For more than 70 years, peace in Europe has been secured and no adversary, not the old Soviet Union or the contemporary Russian Federation, has dared to risk war by attacking a European ally of the United States because every American president has made clear that the United States is committed to Article V of the North Atlantic Treaty which holds that an attack on any NATO member is regarded as an attack on all of them.

Madam Speaker, Operation Overlord, as D-Day was formally known, was the largest single amphibious assault in the history of warfare.

The success of D-Day, which was far from certain at the outset, led to the liberation of

Western Europe, signaled the death knell of the German Wehrmacht, and paved the way to unconditional victory by the Allied Forces over the evils of Nazism, fascism, and Japanese imperialism.

It is no exaggeration to say that D-Day changed the course of human history.

The aim of the meticulously planned D-Day operation was to open a second front in the European war theater from which the Allied Forces could attack the German army and push east to capture Berlin.

With the Russian Army advancing from the east, coupled with the southern front opened by the Allied invasion of Italy from North Africa in 1942, the opening of a western front would set in motion the pincer movement that would catch the German Army in a trap from which there would be no escape.

The formidable German Army expected that the Allied Forces would try to launch an invasion from the western beaches of France.

They just did not know when or where.

So, in anticipation of an Allied invasion, the Nazis constructed the infamous Atlantic Wall, an extensive system of coastal fortifications built along the western coast of Europe and Scandinavia.

Under the direction of Field Marshal Rommel, the Atlantic Wall was reinforced by the addition of concrete pillboxes built along the beaches to house machine guns, antitank guns and light artillery.

Mines and antitank obstacles were planted on the beaches themselves and underwater obstacles and mines were placed in waters just offshore.

By the time of the D-Day landing, the Nazis had laid almost six million mines in northern France.

And awaiting Allied soldiers who made their way onto and away from the beaches were gun emplacements and minefields extended inland.

"War is hell," said General William Tecumseh Sherman during the Civil War.

And that is an apt description of what awaited the brave Allied warriors who set sail from England to the beaches of Normandy in the early morning of June 6, 1944, at the beginning of what has rightly been called "The Longest Day."

But they were buoyed in their resolve by the millions of prayers from Americans and others back home, of all races, religions, and creeds, invoking the Lord's blessing, mercy, and grace.

With the outcome in doubt, President Franklin Roosevelt asked the nation to join him in this solemn prayer:

"Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity."

"Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith."

"They will need Thy blessings."

"For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace."

"They fight not for the lust of conquest."

"They fight to end conquest."

"They fight to liberate."

"They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and goodwill among all Thy people."

"They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home."

The prayers were needed because the cost of D-Day was high; U.S. casualties on D-Day totaled more than 2,499 dead, 3,184 wounded, 1,928 missing, and 26 captured.

Our British and Canadian allies suffered terrible losses on D-Day as well: approximately 2,700 for the British and 946 for the Canadians.

German casualties are estimated at 4,000 to 9,000.

In total, the number of combatants killed, wounded or missing in the Battle of Normandy for both sides exceeded 425,000, not including the estimated 15,000 to 20,000 French civilians killed.

But the operation was a success.

More than 156,000 troops or paratroopers came ashore on D-Day, 73,000 from the U.S., 83,000 from Great Britain and Canada.

By the end of June 11, D-Day plus 5, 326,547 troops, 54,186 vehicles and 104,428 tons of supplies had come ashore.

And with them came the seeds for the victory in Europe that would come less than a year later, on May 8, 1945, with the fall of Berlin and the unconditional surrender of the Nazis.

On the eve of the Normandy invasion, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, addressed the soldiers, sailors, and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Forces and said to them that they were about to embark upon a "Great Crusade," and that the "eyes of the world" were upon them.

He told them that their task would not be easy because the "enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely."

But General Eisenhower said, "this is the year 1944. The tide has turned. The free men of the world are marching together to victory."

And march to victory they did, fully justifying General Eisenhower's "confidence in their courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle."

Because of the heroism of these men who willingly risked their lives to be the tip of the spear of liberty, the war was won, and a world was saved for freedom.

Madam Speaker, D-Day was, and remains, a day like no other in the history of man's sojourn on earth.

We remember Gettysburg.

There, President Lincoln paid tribute to those "who gave their lives so that the nation might live."

It is equally fitting and proper that we never forget D-Day and that we continue to honor those who risked all and gave all so that the light of freedom would never be extinguished in the world.

**HONORING JOHN REMILLARD,
PRESIDENT OF ELIZABETHTOWN
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL, ON HIS
WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT**

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 4, 2021

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Remillard on his retirement from the Elizabethtown Community Hospital.

John joined the University of Vermont Health Network as President of both the Eliza-

bethtown Community Hospital and the hospital in Ticonderoga 5 years ago. Since then, John has helped the hospital through renovations, additions, and restructuring. He has shown steadfast leadership in the face of great challenges, most notably throughout the Coronavirus Pandemic. I have had the pleasure of working with John in the interest of the people of the 21st Congressional District, ensuring that the hospitals received necessary federal funding and supplies. I am grateful for the sacrifice and hard work that John and the entire Elizabethtown Community Hospital staff put into keeping our community safe and healthy.

As a federally designated critical access hospital, Elizabethtown Community Hospital provides vital care to the surrounding areas. John has faced unique challenges working in the rural healthcare field and yet, he continued to relentlessly pursue providing access to high quality care for all who walked through the hospital's doors. For more than 30 years working in the healthcare field, John has been a caring and compassionate leader, understanding that it truly takes a village.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I would like to congratulate John on reaching this important milestone. John has left a significant impact on our community and improved access to healthcare in our rural district. I wish him well in this next chapter of his life.

IN RECOGNITION OF PATRICK G.
HIMES, SR.

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 4, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my District Manager Patrick G. Himes, Sr., for his service to Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District. An Altoona native, Pat has worked alongside me since the beginning of my service in Congress.

During his tenure, Pat has been an integral member of my team as he worked with Pennsylvanians on the ground and led our district operations. Under his leadership, our team has delivered substantial results for the people of Pennsylvania—from leading outreach to constituents and supporting our local communities to cutting through red tape with federal agencies. During the uncertain days of 2020, Pat ensured that our district team continued to safely provide uninterrupted services.

Every day, Pat's work is marked by his commitment and dedication to the people of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District.

Pat has spent a lifetime in service to our community. Before joining my office, Pat served as a law enforcement officer in Blair County for 27 years, including as Blair County Parole Officer, Altoona Police Officer, and Altoona School District Police Officer. He attended Bishop Guilfoyle High School and holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Dayton.

It is my privilege to recognize Patrick G. Himes, Sr., for his outstanding service to our region, and to thank him for his tireless work. I wish Pat and his family all the best as they embark on a new chapter.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF COLONEL GERALD "JERRY"
LUKOWSKI JR.

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 4, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the esteemed career in public service of Colonel Gerald "Jerry" Lukowski, Junior. Colonel Lukowski retires on June 5, 2021, from the apex of his service as Chief of Staff to the Joint Staff for the Connecticut Army National Guard. Having dedicated a 36-year long career toward securing the common defense through a distinguished vocation in the military, Jerry will move on and continue to benefit the State of Connecticut with his skill and expertise within the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

Jerry's sense of duty catalyzed his service to the public through a military-oriented career. This was exemplified from the earliest days of his education, when he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant through the University of Connecticut's ROTC program in 1989, before graduating from the University of New Haven in 1991. Armed with a Bachelors in Civil Engineering, Second Lieutenant Lukowski set his sights on a path to leadership within the State's civil defense unit, the Connecticut Army National Guard. He put himself forward on this path, engaging with various career-related roles whilst simultaneously advancing a civilian and military education, obtaining his Master's in Environmental Engineering from his alma mater in 1997, completing countless military instruction courses and acquiring numerous licenses within the State's engineering apparatus as recent as 2019.

Colonel Lukowski applied his affinity for knowledge throughout the ranks of his distinguished profession. His education prepared him for 17 years of service at several stations of duty with the Combat Engineers and most prominently catalyzed his ability to excel in the latter half of his career as the Construction and Facility Management Officer (CFMO) for 13 years, and then Chief of Staff to the Joint Staff since 2016. As Chief of Staff, Colonel Lukowski greatly enhanced the operations of the Connecticut Army National Guard, pushing the troops to work with their respective units on their pre-deployment and redeployment requirements. During his tenure as CFMO, Colonel Lukowski's leadership and expertise in facilities management, fiscal policy and federal contracting enabled the state to obtain nearly \$975 million in Military Construction Project and Sustainment Restoration and Modernization funding, resulting in the planning and implementation of 17 total projects. His tenacity as an advocate for boosting Connecticut's emergency response infrastructure has well positioned our state's readiness capabilities for generations to come and has truly kept the safety of our public at heart.

Madam Speaker, Colonel Lukowski has spent his life developing Connecticut's emergency response infrastructure. His example of selfless service now extends throughout his family—his wife Mary Beth and children John, Sarah, Megan and Emily—the last of whom has gone on to attend the US Air Force Academy after receiving a nomination from my office. While the Connecticut Army National